

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action mailed May 30, 2008 (hereinafter, "Office Action"), claims 8, 17 and 22-28 stand objected to, and claims 1, 3-11, 13-20 and 22-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Claims 1, 11, 20, 22, and 28 have been amended. Claims 8, 17, and 27 have been canceled.

Applicants respectfully respond to the Office Action.

I. Objections to Claims 8, 17 and 22-28

Claims 8, 17 and 22-28 are objected to because of informalities. Claims 8, 17, and 27 have been canceled, at least a portion of the subject matter of these claims being included in the pertinent independent claims. Claims 22 and 28 have been amended to depend from claims that are still pending in this application.

II. Claims 1, 3-11, 13-20 and 22-28 Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 3-11, 13-20 and 22-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0042884 to Wu et al (hereinafter, "Wu") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0140009 to Namba et al. (hereinafter, "Namba"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The factual inquiries that are relevant in the determination of obviousness are determining the scope and contents of the prior art, ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims in issue, resolving the level of ordinary skill in the art, and evaluating evidence of secondary consideration. KSR Int'l Co. v. Teleflex Inc., 550 U.S. ___, 2007 U.S. LEXIS 4745, at **4-5 (2007) (citing Graham v. John Deere Co. of Kansas City, 383 U.S. 1, 17-18 (1966)). As the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences has recently confirmed, "obviousness requires a suggestion of all limitations in a claim." In re Wada and Murphy, Appeal 2007-3733 (citing CFMT, Inc. v. Yieldup Intern. Corp., 349 F.3d 1333, 1342 (Fed. Cir. 2003)). Moreover, the analysis in support of an obviousness rejection "should be made explicit." KSR, 2007 U.S. LEXIS 4745, at **37. "[R]jections on obviousness grounds cannot be sustained by mere conclusory statements; instead, there must be some articulated reasoning with some rational

underpinning to support the legal conclusion of obviousness.” Id. (citing In re Kahn, 441 F.3d 977, 988 (Fed. Cir. 2006)).

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims at issue are patentably distinct from Wu in view of Namba. Neither Wu, Namba, nor their combination teach or suggest all of the limitations in these claims.

Independent claims 1, 11, and 20, have been amended to include the following limitation:
performing an auditing function relating to the document, including extracting reduced content information from the document and storing the reduced content information in secured storage as at least part of an audit trail generated by the auditing function.

The Office Action states that “the claim language [referring to the prior claim language] does not disclose the reduced content (e.g., a thumbnail) information within the auditing trail.” (Office Action, page 4.) While the Applicants respectfully disagree with this assertion, the most recent amendments to the independent claims make it absolutely clear that the reduced content information comprises a portion of the audit trail.

The reduced content information referenced in claims 1, 11, and 20 is explained in connection with Figure 5:

The audit trail information may include, but is not limited to. . . a reduced content 514 (e.g., thumbnail) of some characteristic or aspect of the authorized document 502.

Present Application at ¶ 83. Figure 5 clearly shows that the reduced content 514 comprises a portion of the audit trail 506.

Neither Wu, Namba, nor their combination teach or suggest “storing the reduced content information in secured storage as at least part of an audit trail generated by the auditing function,” as required by claims 1, 11, and 20 of the present application. Instead, although Wu discloses the creation of an auditing trail, it does not teach or suggest disclose use of reduced content information within the auditing trail. Further, while paragraph 189 of Wu discusses a “sensitive part [that] is small, or compressed,” this refers to “client software” that performs functions (such as “watermark generating functions” and “access control”) rather than reduced content, as claimed in the Present Application. (Wu at ¶¶ 184-191.) This point is supported by the fact that Wu states that “the sensitive part [of the client software] can also be installed in the

client's machine together with the basic part of the client software." (Wu at ¶ 189 (emphasis added).) The "client software" of Wu thus clearly refers to installable software that provides operating instructions to a computer system, rather than a document.

In addition, the claims of Wu also distinguish a "document" from "client software," stating that "there is included client software that is downloaded to a machine of the recipient for printing of the document," the document (a separate element from the "client software") being first disclosed in claim 1. (Wu at p. 19, claim 26 (emphasis added).) In claim 29, Wu further explains that the "client software has a basic part and a sensitive part." As a result, the "sensitive part" of Wu clearly has reference to software rather than document content, to say nothing of reduced document content "as at least part of an audit trail" as required by claims 1, 11, and 20 of the Present Application. Wu thus fails to teach or suggest utilizing reduced content as at least part of an audit trail.

In addition, Namba did not even use the word "audit," nor does the Office Action suggest that Namba teaches use of "reduced content information in secured storage as at least part of an audit trail generated by the auditing function." Thus, neither Wu, Namba, nor their combination teach or suggest this limitation.

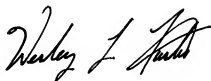
In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 11, and 20 are patentably distinct from the cited references. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1, 11, and 20 be withdrawn.

Claims 3-7 and 9-10 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1. Claims 13-16 and 18-19 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 11. Claims 22-26 and 28 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 20. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 3-7, 9-10, 13-16, 18-19, 22-26 and 28 be withdrawn.

III. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully assert that all pending claims are patentably distinct from the cited references, and request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If there are any remaining issues preventing allowance of the pending claims that may be clarified by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wesley L. Austin', written in a cursive style.

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